



Volume 4, No. 2

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

JUNE 2020

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE



In this new world of Zoom meetings, Facetime interaction, and being a hermit at the same time, it gets tiresome. However, with the hard work of people like Mark Norris and his crew (California Compaction), Johnny Zamrzla and his crew (Western Pacific Roofing), J.P. Toneman and his crew (Toneman Concrete Corporation), Rob Irwin and his crew (IM Masonry) our museum building is being erected. Yes, they are following the

“rules” and you can see the structure from the freeway.

Bill Rawlings is spending his time making the parts for the cabinets and acting as job supervisor on the building and will soon need help staining and sanding the new cabinets, so be ready to help when called!

According to a portion of the A.V. Fair’s update of 5-21-20:

“We continue to move forward, reinvigorating our Fair business and our community. Currently we are planning to host the Kiwanis’s Jr. Livestock Auction, select virtual still exhibit competitions, battle of the bands, community stage performances, possible drive thru fair food grab and goes, and more.

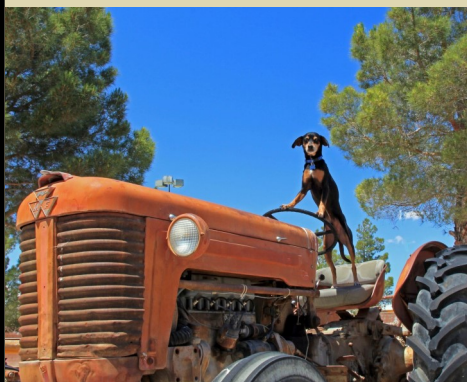
The Antelope Valley Fair & Alfalfa Festival has existed for 82 years, and together we will continue to be an iconic event, providing countless opportunities and lifelong memories. We will have a 2020 fair season. We will not quit, we will not cancel, and we will prevail! We are AV Fair Strong.”

With Supervisor Barger’s efforts tied to the efforts of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Santa Clarita, for the northern part of the County, things might change.

Please stay healthy and happy and this too shall pass.

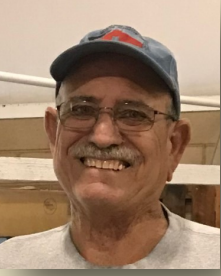
Giovanni Simi

CEO, AV Rural Museum



Harley Peterson ready to roll into the new AV Rural Museum! See pages 3 & 4.

RAWLINGS' REVIEW



The Curveballs of Life are affecting all of us in a wide variety of ways. For the AVRМ it is our fundraising opportunities that have suffered the most. The Spring Flea Market was postponed, then canceled. We were scheduled to have our largest fundraiser ever on June 6th, which was then bumped to June 13th, then postponed until September 26th. We had hoped to raise the balance of funding for our first phase, which would allow us to possibly be moved and open for the 2020 AV Fair in August. *We can only be certain that nothing is certain* when it pertains to scheduling for the remainder of 2020.

Pick Us...Pick Us...PICKUS CHALLENGE!

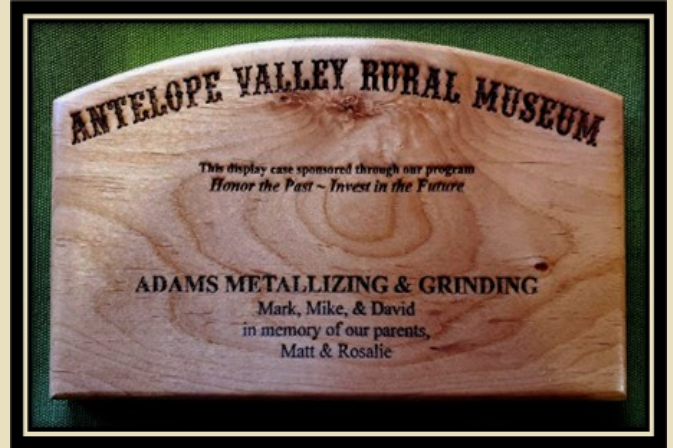
Our most popular and successful fundraising began in 2012 when David and Luci Pickus donated \$1000 to the AVRМ Building Fund from their Pickus Repair business. They challenged other businesses to match that \$1000. Thus, was born the ANNUAL PICKUS CHALLENGE. Individuals and businesses have more than met the challenge, often with donations greater than the \$1000. Those donors get on the donor wall once for each year they meet the challenge AND again on the wall in the area designating total donations. Our donors are recognized and listed on our website www.avmuseum.org as well.



Soon to be Built is this new Donor Wall as depicted in Renato de Guia's rendering. Large, at about 18 feet long by 12 feet tall and over 4 feet deep, this will be a permanent acknowledgement of

those who donated to the AVRМ.

Separate sections will denote the different levels of giving, with a proportional increase in prominence for amounts: \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$100,000. Memorials, Pickus Challenge Donors, and \$100-\$999 donors will also be acknowledged in other sections. Your tax-deductible donations to the AVRМ are cumulative, so that as you donate over time, your level moves up also.



Add \$500 to your Pickus Challenge donation and your Honor the Past ~ Invest in the Future Plaque like this one will be custom laser engraved on alder hardwood. You may choose from available displays as to where it is placed in the museum.

As Construction Continues so Must Fundraising

We are fortunate that the new building construction has been allowed to proceed, but we are in a bit of a pickle with funding needed now and our fundraiser postponed and possibly cancelled.

Our Donate Button allows you to make a scheduled periodic donation, one-time donation using your credit card or Pay Pal. Checks through snail mail are even better since we do not pay fees for them. Any amount helps us preserve the history of our diverse and ever evolving Antelope Valley.

Bill Rawlings
Finance Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2020

Museum is closed until further notice due to the COVID—19. We appreciate your understanding and hope you are all doing well. Stay safe!

THE NEW BUILDING—PROGRESS!
March—May 2020
Photos by Karl Peterson

Bill Rawlings (left) going over plans (on right) and foundation work (below right).



Toneman Development Corporation, our General Contractor, places the concrete for the foundation and floor.

Bill Rawlings working on new cabinets/fixtures and job site supervising for the Museum (above).

Karl Peterson documenting the construction with sidekick Harley (right).





Neither rain nor shine can stop the construction crew. Steel beams being delivered (left) and hey, they are up now! (below)



Western Pacific Roofing is the contractor for PEMB—Pre-Engineered Metal Building. We are grateful to Johnny Zamrzla and his family for the professional, safe, and efficient crew they bring to our jobsite.





I M Masonry Construction owner Rob Irwin and crew have completed the concrete block portion of our walls.

Below: Inspector Eric Kelly observes as Rob tops off the concrete grout inside each block.



Builders Unlimited Constructors—BUC has donated ALL LABOR and MATERIALS for the mezzanine floor and stairway. THANK YOU STEVE WANE! (Mezzanine below & right)



May 28, 2020

View of the south-west corner. There is no masonry on the south wall because some day we will add another 8,000 square feet to that end of the building. Some of the siding will then be removed.



WORLD WAR I DURING THE SPANISH INFLUENZA



H. Clifford Burton at left (co-owner of Burton's Tropico Gold Mine in Rosamond, CA) with the 319th Engineers, World War I, trained at Camp Fremont, U.S. Army training camp on the San Francisco peninsula. This was also during the time of the Spanish Influenza. Palo Alto, like many cities around San Francisco, required people to wear gauze masks in public in an attempt to stop the epidemic's spread to the public.

I have had inquiries on our Facebook page about the similarities of the 1918 to 1920 Spanish Influenza pandemic to the current COVID-19 pandemic we are all going through.

The Spanish flu began in 1918 when a group of naval seamen contracted the disease and quickly spread to the civilian population. This pandemic lasted for over two years.

Although not much that I could find is related to the Antelope Valley, I did find a few articles. From what I could find in local Los Angeles County death certificates, Lancaster Cemetery had at least six people who died from the Spanish Influenza, and Palmdale Cemetery had at least three deaths due to the flu. I'm sure there are more at Lancaster Cemetery but we have many "unknown" burials here and those could possibly account for more influenza cases. Burials due to the Spanish Influenza continued into the 1920s.

The similarities to what is happening now are startling, with our current officials doing almost exactly what was done in 1918 - 1920. Quarantines, school closures, along with businesses, movie theaters, athletics, etc. on hold - all what is going on today. Great job to our local officials and thanks to all who are cooperating with these rules and guidelines.

LOS ANGELES EPIDEMIC
 LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28.—New cases of Spanish influenza reported in Los Angeles to noon today totalled 1,015 with forty-seven deaths.

Home During Vacation—
 Miss Lucy Redman, a local college student, is spending the enforced vacation now on, at her home in Lancaster.

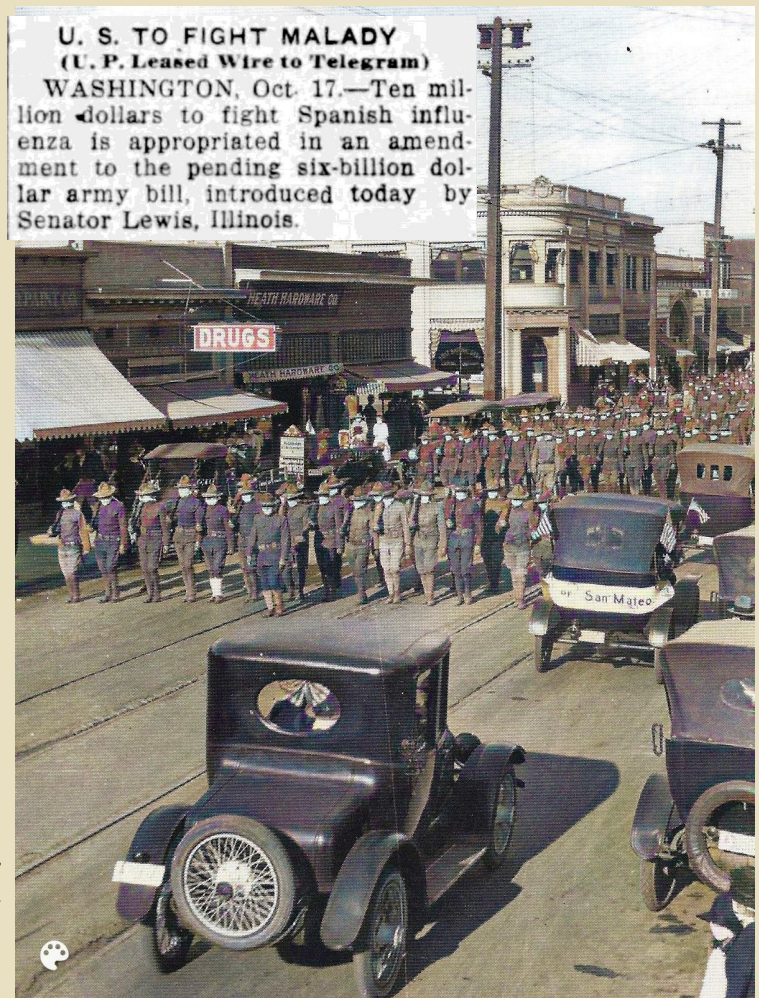
Is Called Home—
 Miss Lucy Redman, a local College girl, has been called home by the death of a sister who passed away near Lancaster, California. Death came as a result of influenza.

Lillie Redman Bond, wife of Llewellyn Bond, passed away November 15, 1918 at the age of 21. She is buried at Lancaster Cemetery.

Troops from Camp Fremont marching in Palo Alto with gauze masks due to the Spanish Influenza.

Photo from the Melo Park Historical Association.

All photos colorized by Dayle DeBry.



WALTER FRANKLIN EMERICK
Antelope Valley Forest Ranger/Game Warden



Walter Franklin Emerick (1880 - 1956) lived on Sierra Highway, Lancaster/Palmdale in the 1940 Census. These photos are dated 1931 when he was a forest ranger/game warden.

I found these two photos at an Antique Mall in Palmdale for \$1.00 several years ago (black & white) and colorized them recently. It looks as if Walter led a very interesting life. Below is Emerick's obituary from the *Ventura Co. Star Free Press* newspaper, February 13, 1956.

FIRST COUNTY FIRE CHIEF DIES

Walter F. Emerick, Sr., 76, first Ventura county fire chief, died yesterday in Los Angeles. He had resided in Lancaster.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow at 2:30 at the H. B. Skillin mortuary in Santa Paula.

Born in Pomona Jan. 5, 1880, Mr. Emerick began his long career as an outdoorsman as a ranger in the Santa Barbara national forest (now the Los Padres). He was assistant supervisor in 1927 when he left the forest service to become county game and fire warden in Ventura county. In 1928, when the Ventura county fire department was organized, he was named the first chief, a post he held until his retirement in 1936.

Surviving are his widow, Florence, Lancaster; sons, Ronald, Lancaster, Walter, Jr., Ventura and Dudley, Illinois; daughter Mrs. Frank Byerts, Ventura; brothers, Tom, Carpinteria, John, Washington state, and Martin in northern California. A sister, Mrs. Lizzie Heighsmith, and three grandchildren also survive.

Rev. L. I. Brock, pastor of the Lancaster Community Methodist church will officiate at the services. Burial will be in Santa Paula cemetery.

Above and right, Emerick in his game warden uniform looks pensive in the Antelope Valley desert.

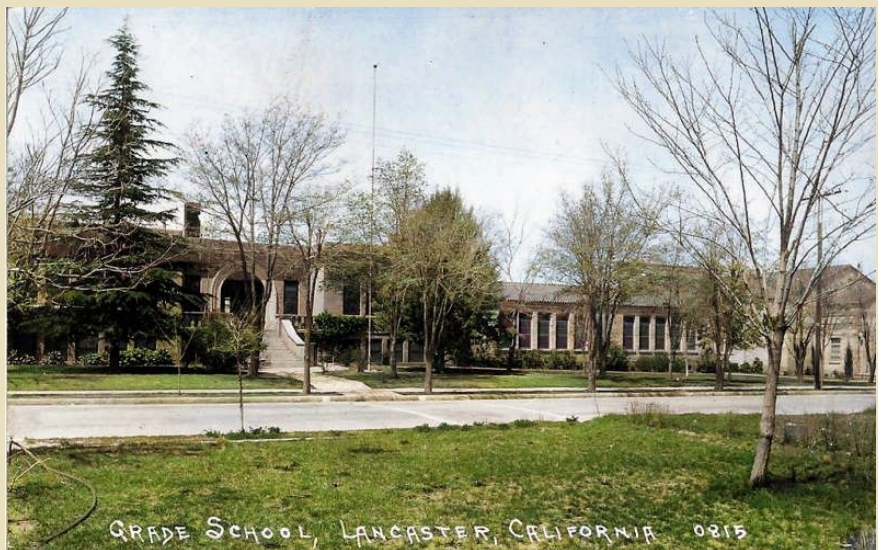
Black & white photos colorized by Dayle DeBry.



COLORIZED POSTCARDS

Bringing New Life to Favorite Postcards and Photos

Thanks to a new colorizing program discovered on the website "My Heritage," I, along with Norma Gurba and Carol Stephens, have been putting new life into old photos and postcards and posting them on Facebook. This began as a much needed distraction from all of what is going on in the world today, and it really seemed to help bring a most welcomed change of scene with the colorization. You can see many other photos and postcards colorized on the AVRVM Facebook page as well as the West Antelope Valley Historical Society page. Between the three of us we have colorized hundreds of photos!





THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AVRМ!

Membership Application for the Antelope Valley Rural Museum

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues \$20/person _____

Special Interest as a volunteer? _____

Tax deductible Donation \$ _____

Bronze = \$100 Silver = \$1,000 Gold = \$10,000

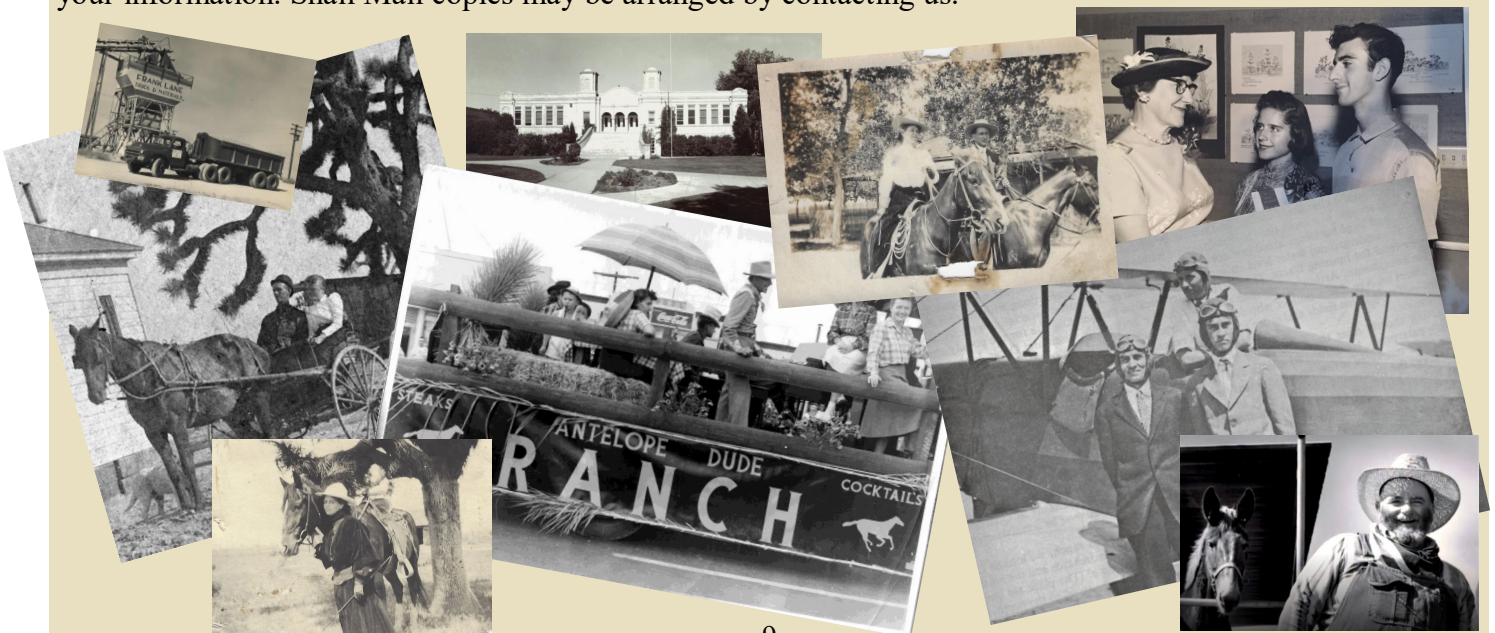
Please make checks payable to: AV Rural Museum

Mail to: AVRМ P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93538

*Donate and pay dues via **PayPal** on our website: www.avmuseum.org*

Interested in Antelope Valley History?

Sign up NOW to receive your copy. Learn about our new building construction progress, Each edition contains historical pictures and stories, past & upcoming event information, as well as AVRМ news.. It is SAFE & EASY to SUBSCRIBE on our website www.avmuseum.org. Watch us grow...Help us grow. We are 100% volunteer and donation supported. Your copy will arrive safely through MailChimp via email. We do not share your information. Snail Mail copies may be arranged by contacting us.



Website: www.avmuseum.org
[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](https://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyRuralMuseum)

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P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584



Contact us:
avmuseum@verizon.net

Donate and pay dues via PayPal and credit card on our website

ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Annual membership dues	\$20.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Members)	\$10.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Non-members)	\$15.00
Lancaster, CA Through Time	\$25.00
History books—all books are priced at:	
Images of America “Lancaster”	\$20.00
Images of America “Palmdale”	
Legendary Locals of the AV	
(Above AV history books signed by Norma Gurba)	
P-38 Lightning	
Images of America “Edwards Air Force Base”	
DVDs Listed DVDs are priced at:	\$20.00
Jane Pinheiro Wildflowers NEW!	
Yester Years—AV History 1876—1942	
1987 Rural Olympics (narrated)	
Evolution of the Rural Olympics book	
(On DVD—Excel & Word Doc format)	

The AVRM is a 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN: 27-1002922

MISSION STATEMENT: The AVRM will honor the history of the Antelope Valley with documentation, preservation, exhibition, and education.

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2020—2021 Building Fund	\$1,000
Honor the Past Plaques and Display Sponsorship (Custom laser cut wood plaques with Personal memorial or message)	\$1,500
Bronze Sponsorship Donor	\$100
Silver Sponsorship Donor	\$1000
Gold Sponsorship Donor	\$10,000

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